

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, WMO

SUBJECT: WMO: SEVENTH CONGRESS: GENEVA GROUP MEETING

1. DEPT WOULD WELCOME MEETING OF GENEVA GROUP BOTH PRIOR TO AND DURING FORTHCOMING WMO SEVENTH CONGRESS. BELIEVE FIRST SESSION, WHICH MIGHT TAKE PLACE IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE, WOULD PROVIDE USEFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR INFORMAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AT TIME WHEN MEMBERS OF GENEVA GROUP ARE FINALIZING THEIR POSITIONS IN PREPARATION FOR CONGRESS. SUGGEST SECOND MEETING TAKE PLACE DURING SECOND WEEK OF CONGRESS, AFTER GENEVA GROUP MEMBERS HAVE HAD OPPORTUNITY TEST POSITIONS OF OTHERS.

2. ACCORDINGLY REQUEST MISSION CONSULT OTHER GG MEMBERS ALONG ABOVE LINES. BELIEVE GROUP MIGHT FOCUS PRIMARILY ON SECRETARY GENERAL'S PROPOSALS FOR PROGRAM AND BUDGET AND RELATED MATTERS. US POSITION THESE ITEMS NOT YET FINAL, BUT BELOW ARE OUR PRELIMINARY VIEWS WHICH MISSION MAY DISCUSS INFORMALLY AT THIS STAGE. US WOULD OF COURSE WELCOME PRELIMINARY VIEWS OF OTHERS.

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3. PROGRAM AND BUDGET FOR SEVENTH FINANCIAL PERIOD: DEPT CONCERNED BY MAGNITUDE OF SECRETARY GENERAL'S SUPPLEMENTARY REQUEST CONTAINED IN DOCS 19, 42, 76 AND 84, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW LATENESS OF CIRCULATION SECRETARY GENERALS PROPOSALS WHICH HAS PROVIDED GOVERNMENTS ONLY

MINIMUM TIME TO CONSIDER. WITH THESE ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS AND ADD-ONS, SECRETARY GENERAL'S ESTIMATES NOW TOTAL APPROXIMATELY DOLS 49 MILLION. ON BASIS OUR REVIEW SO FAR, WE BELIEVE IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO REDUCE THIS AMOUNT BY TEN TO FIFTEEN PERCENT. THIS WILL BE MAJOR OBJECTIVE OF OUR EFFORTS, WITH HIGHER FIGURE BEING DESIRED GOAL AND LOWER BEING REDUCTION NECESSARY TO PERMIT US SUPPORT. DEPT BELIEVES REDUCTION OF THIS MAGNITUDE FULLY POSSIBLE WITHOUT IN ANY WAY ENDANGERING ORGANIZATION'S SUBSTANTIVE PROGRAM OBJECTIVES. FOLLOWING ARE OUR PRELIMINARY VIEWS ON ELEMENTS OF SECRETARY GENERAL'S PROPOSALS:

(A) SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL PROGRAMS: BASICALLY, US BELIEVES SECRETARY GENERAL HAS PRESENTED BALANCED PROGRAM WHICH WE CAN SUPPORT IN ITS BROAD OUTLINES, ALTHOUGH WE BELIEVE SIGNIFICANT REDUCTIONS CAN BE ACHIEVED. BELIEVE TOTAL REDUCTIONS IN PARTS III/A (WORLD WEATHER WATCH), III/B (RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM), III/C (METEOROLOGICAL APPLICATIONS AND ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMS), CAN BE ACHIEVED OF APPROXIMATELY DOLS 1,330,000 BY REDUCING REQUESTS FOR ADDED STAFF FOR WHICH JUSTIFICATION EITHER LACKING OR INADEQUATE; REDUCING NUMBER OF MEETINGS AND WORKING GROUPS AND SHORTENING OTHERS. US WELCOMES SECRETARY GENERAL'S PROPOSED INCREASED ACTIVITIES IN WEATHER MODIFICATION AND AGROMETEOROLOGY IN SUPPORT OF FOOD PRODUCTION. NEVERTHELESS, DEPT BELIEVES ESTIMATES BOTH THESE PROGRAMS CAN BE SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED WITHOUT IN ANY WAY ENDANGERING PROGRAM OBJECTIVES. WE ESTIMATE ON

BASIS OUR PRELIMINARY REVIEW THAT SAVINGS FROM THESE TWO PROGRAMS COULD BE ACHIEVED ON ORDER OF DOLS SEVEN TO EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND AND POSSIBLY MORE.

(B) REGIONAL PROGRAMS: WE WILL OPPOSE CREATION OF THIRD UNCLASSIFIED

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REGIONAL OFFICER FOR EUROPE, ASIA, SOUTHWEST PACIFIC, AND ANTARCTICA ON GROUNDS THERE LITTLE JUSTIFICATION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT THIS POSITION AND SO FAR AS WE AWARE THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE REGIONAL DEMAND. IN ADDITION, WE BELIEVE TEN REGIONAL TRAINING SEMINARS, AND 24 CONSULTANTS, APPEAR TO BE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES WHICH SHOULD BE SUPPORTED FROM EXTRA BUDGETARY SOURCES. THESE TWO ITEMS COULD, IN OUR VIEW, RESULT IN SAVINGS ON THE ORDER OF

DOLS 1,135,000.

(C) EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMS: WE BELIEVE THE PRESSURE TO PROVIDE DOLS 600,000 FOR LONG-TERM FELLOWSHIPS WILL BE IRRESTIBLE, ESPECIALLY WITH THE IMPACT OF INFLA-

TION AND CURRENCY REVALUATIONS ON THIS PROGRAM. WE NEVER-THELESS BELIEVE THAT THIS SECTION SHOULD BE REDUCED BY AN AMOUNT ON THE ORDER OF DOLS 220,000. WE FULLY RECOGNIZE THAT THE PRESSURES TO APPROVE THE SECRETARY GENERALS ESTIMATES WITHOUT CHANGE, BOTH IN REGIONAL PROGRAMS AND IN THE TRAINING AND EDUCATION, WILL BE EXTREMELY HEAVY ON THE PART OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. FOR THIS REASON, WE PLACE PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CONCERTED GENEVA GROUP POSITION. IT REMAINS OUR CENTRAL POSITION WITH RESPECT TO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE THAT SUCH ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE BORNE PRIMARILY FROM VOLUNTARY FUNDS, IN THE CASE OF WMO, EITHER FROM UNDP OR FROM VAP.

(D) OTHER PERSONNEL AND ORGANIZATION MATTERS: WE BELIEVE THAT FURTHER REDUCTIONS IN THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL STAFF ARE POSSIBLE AND COULD RESULT IN ADDITIONAL SAVINGS ON THE ORDER OF DOLS 1,210,000. WITH REGARD TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S PROPOSED REORGANIZATION, IT IS IN THE US VIEW THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL SHOULD HAVE THE FINAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DEPLOYMENT OF HIS STAFF. WHILE WE THEREFORE WILL HAVE CERTAIN SUGGESTIONS TO MAKE WITH REGARD TO HIS REORGANIZATION PROPOSALS, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT CONGRESS SHOULD IMPOSE AN ORGANIZATIONAL PATTERN ON THE SECRETARY GENERAL. WITH REGARD TO THE D-1 PROGRAM PLANNING POSITION IN THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S OFFICE, WE WILL PROPOSE THAT THIS POST BE ELIMINATED AND ITS PLANNING FUNCTIONS ASSIGNED TO THE TWO NEW UNCLASSIFIED

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ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL POSITIONS WHICH THE SECRETARY GENERAL PROPOSED TO ESTABLISH AND WHICH WE ARE PREPARED TO AGREE. WE BELIEVE THAT SUPPORTING SERVICES SHOULD BE DRAWN TOGETHER IN ONE DEPARTMENT HEADED BY A D-1. WE WILL OPPOSE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LIAISON OFFICE IN NEW YORK AS AN UNNECESSARY LUXURY WHICH THE WMO SHOULD FOREGO IN THE INTERESTS OF ECONOMY. ON BASIS OUR REVIEW AT THIS STAGE, WE BELIEVE SECRETARY GENERAL SHOULD BE HELD TO A TOTAL INCREASE IN STAFFING FOR SEVENTH FINANCIAL PERIOD OF ABOUT 15-20 POSTS ABOVE 208 PLUS POSTS ACHIEVED DURING SIXTH FINANCIAL PERIOD.

(E) WE WILL SEEK A REDUCTION OF APPROXIMATELY DOLS 300,000 IN THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S REQUEST FOR RENTAL OF TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATIONS AND NEW CONSTRUCTION STUDIES.

4. WORKING CAPITAL FUND: WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL HAS MADE A CASE FOR A WORKING CAPITAL FUND OF 5 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL FOUR-YEAR BUDGET AND SEE NO REASON WHY CONGRESS SHOULD NOT MAINTAIN THE PRESENT DOLS 1 MILLION LIMITATION.

5. SCALE OF CONTRIBUTIONS: THE SECRETARY GENERAL HAS PROPOSED NO CHANGE IN THE PRESENT SCALE OF CONTRIBUTIONS. WE ASSUME THAT, AS IN THE PAST, THERE WILL BE PROPOSAL TO ADOPT THE UN SCALE. WE WILL OPPOSE ANY SUCH MOVE.

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